

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 15 were amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,714,971 (Motoyama et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is very clear from Applicants' specification, such as at page 2, lines 2-8, that a central concern of Applicants, in making their invention, was to enable a network administrator to limit the number of pages that a user could print to a specified period of time. Applicants recognized that if this objective could be achieved, congestion associated with network printers, resulting from several users seeking to print at the same time, could be significantly reduced, page 1, lines 15-19.

The Motoyama reference, such as at column 2, lines 43-67, teaches that respective objects thereof are directed to an arrangement of a type "which transmits information regarding usage of a device originating from the device through a computer". None of these objects refers to or suggests placing limits on usage of a device. These objects also make no reference to printers.

In rejecting independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, the Examiner states the following:

Regarding Claim 1, 8 and 15 Motoyama et al disclose:

A method for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network comprising: setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a specified time period (please note column 14, lines 26-34);

receiving a print job request from a network user (please note column 14 lines 34-38);

determining if the print job exceeds the predetermined print quota (please note column 14 line 43-54 also note column 24 lines 37-57);

preventing the print job from printing if it exceeds the predetermined print quota (please note column 24 lines 58-64); and

allowing the print job to print if it does not exceed the predetermined print quota (please note column 14 lines 48-56).

Office action dated May 20, 2004, page 2.

Claim 1 of the present application reads as follows:

A method for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network, comprising:

setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a specified time period;

receiving a print job request from a network user;

determining if the print job exceeds the predetermined print quota;

preventing the print job from printing if it exceeds the predetermined print quota; and

allowing the print job to print if it does not exceed the predetermined print quota, so that network congestion is reduced.

Claim 1 is considered to distinguish over the Motoyama reference, particularly in reciting, in the over-all combination of Claim 1, the step of "setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a specified time period" (emphasis added). In reciting this step, Applicants teach a print quota for users that is limited to both (1) a number of pages and (2) a specified time period. As indicated above, a principal purpose of Applicants' invention is to reduce conflicts and congestion among several different users, who all seek to use a network printer at the same time. Applicants recognized that this purpose could be achieved most effectively by limiting the time available to a print user, in addition to limiting the total number of pages that he could print. Thus, Applicants consider that the Claim 1 feature of limiting print quotas to a specified time period is essential for achieving the intended goals and objectives of their invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Motoyama, at column 14, lines 26-34, discloses the Claim 1 feature of limiting a print quota to a specified time period. This passage reads as follows:

Also, as illustrated in FIG. 11, an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") 540 is connected to a computer 542 which is connected to a Printer C 544. The data 501 includes information regarding usage by an end user of network resources such as, for example, a number of pages printed by an end user

on Printer B 534, and, for example, a predetermined limit on the end user's allowed number of pages to be printed. (Emphasis added).

Thus, this passage of Motoyama refers only to a predetermined limit on the end user's allowed number of pages to be printed. Neither in this passage of Motoyama, nor in any other of the passages cited by the Examiner in rejecting Applicants' Claim 1, does Motoyama disclose or in any way suggest the Claim 1 recitation of a print quota that is limited to both a number of pages and to a specified time period. Moreover, this recited Claim 1 feature, while essential to achieving Applicants' purposes and objectives, is apparently not disclosed or suggested anywhere else in Motoyama.

As is well known, all the limitations of a claim must be taken into account, when considering the patentable novelty of the claim over a prior art reference. MPEP 2116.01. Accordingly, Claim 1 is clearly patentable over the Motoyama et al. reference, since Motoyama fails to either show or suggest the Claim 1 recitation of a quota limited both to a number of pages, and to a specified time period.

In addition, Claim 1 is considered to distinguish over the Motoyama reference in reciting the step of receiving a print job request from a network user. Motoyama does not appear to disclose this feature, either at column 14, lines 34-38 cited by Examiner, or elsewhere.

Independent Claims 8 and 15 each recite the Claim 1 features discussed above. Accordingly, Claims 8 and 15 are considered to patentably distinguish over the prior art, including the Motoyama reference, for the same reasons given in support of Claim 1.

Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21 depend from independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, and are each considered to patentably distinguish over the prior art for the same reasons given in support thereof.

Claim 2, as amended, is considered to further distinguish over the prior art in reciting the step of logging the amount of the user's print quota, including both the number of pages and the specified time period that is used. Applicants consider that the Motoyama reference neither shows nor suggests this feature of amended Claim 2.

Claims 3, 10 and 17 are each considered to further distinguish over the prior art in reciting the feature of setting a predetermined print quota that further comprises setting

separate print quota for different lengths of time. Applicants consider that the Motoyama reference neither shows nor suggests this feature of Applicants' Claims 3, 10 and 17.

Claims 5, 12 and 19 are considered to further distinguish over the art in reciting the feature of setting individual print quotas for each network user. Applicants consider that the Motoyama reference neither shows nor suggests this feature of Claims 5, 12 and 19.

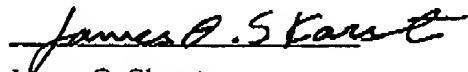
II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Motoyama et al. and is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the currently pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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